PERRY BARR URBAN DISTRICT.

REPORT

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1898.

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Medical Officer of Health.

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1899.

TO THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF

PERRY BARR.

133, Soho Hill, Handsworth,

Birmingham,

January 18th, 1899.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg herewith to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1898.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES RICHMOND.

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ANNUAL REPORT

On the Sanitary Condition of the Urban District of Perry Barr, in the County of Stafford, for the Year ending December 31st, 1898.

Rateable Value October, 1898:—Land, £3,889 19s. 0d.; Houses, etc., £18,795 15s. 0d.

Area, Boundaries, and Geology.—The area of the District is 4043 acres. It is bounded on the south by the Urban District of Handsworth; on the west by the County Borough of West Bromwich; on the north by the Rural District of Walsall; and on the east by the County Boundary, where it touches the Borough of Sutton Coldfield and the Urban District of Erdington, in Warwickshire The surface is undulated, and the height above the sea level varies from 500 feet at the extreme north to 316 feet at the southern extremity. The natural drainage is towards the River Tame at its southern boundary. The sub-soil is sand or gravel of varying thickness overlying the New Red Sandstone, which is broken up by many faults.

Population.—Census 1881—1,349 inhabitants.
,, 1891—2,310 ,,
Estimated 1898 (middle of year)—2,650 inhabitants.

The population is distributed in 413 houses, including 40 villas and semi-detached houses and 25 superior houses, 19 farm-houses, 7 inns, the Maryvale Convent, the Aston Infectious

Hospital, and 320 labourers' and colliers' cottages. There are four elementary schools, viz.: St. Paul's, St. John's, Old Oscott, and the St. Catherine's Schools.

The houses are scattered over the district singly or in small groups, except in the neighbourhood of the colliery, where upwards of 170 cottages are collected. About three-fifths of the population are dependent upon the colliery, the remainder being private residents or persons engaged in agriculture.

Births.—During the year 94 births were registered, 46 male and 48 female, giving a birth-rate of 35·5 per thousand.

Deaths.—During the year 26 deaths were registered, three of which were those of persons not belonging to the district, viz.: two deaths at the Aston Infectious Hospital, and one by drowning. Four deaths occurred during the year among the Perry Barr inmates of the Workhouse, and one resident died at the District Hospital at West Bromwich. The deaths belonging to the district numbered, therefore, 28, 14 being male and 14 female, giving a death-rate of 10·6 per 1,000. There were no uncertified deaths.

Infantile Mortality.—There were seven deaths of infants under twelve months old, giving a mortality of 74 per 1,000 births. One death was due to premature birth, leaving six deaths which might have been due to preventable causes, viz.: One from measles, bronchitis, convulsions, tuberculosis, tubercular peritonitis, and peritonitis respectively. This rate compares very favourably with that of preceding years.

Zymotic Death Rate.—One death occurred from measles, one from scarlatina, two from diphtheria, and two from diarrhœa, the rate per 1,000 being 2·3. One of the deaths from diarrhœa occurred in the Workhouse in a person aged 70.

Tubercular Diseases.—One death was due to phthisis. One death was due to tuberculosis in a child of nine months, and one to tubercular peritonitis in a child of six months.

In the following table the Birth and Death-rates of 1898 are compared with those of the four antecedent five-yearly periods :—

	1881-5	1886-90	1891-5	1896	1897	1898
Birth-rate per 1,000	27·0	29·6	29·5	35	28·1	35·5
Death-rate per 1,000	10·3	13·7	13·6	11·1	14·0	10·6
Zymotic Death-rate per 1,000 ...	0·8	2·1	1·8	1·1	1·9	2·3
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births	130	200	143	154	176	74

The following table gives the number of deaths and the death-rate per 1,000 of the population from different classes of disease, shewing how the death-rate is made up.

	No. of Deaths, 1898.	Death-Rate per 1,000.			
		1898	1897	1896	1895
Total	28	10·6	14·0	11·1	14·9
Deaths from Zymotic diseases	6	2·3	1·9	1·1	1·2
,, ,, Tubercular diseases	3	1·1	1·9	1·1	3·1
,, ,, Diseases of the nervous system...	4	1·5	0·75	0·0	1·5
,, ,, Diseases of the heart, etc. ...	2	0·7	0·75	0·4	0·4
,, ,, Diseases of the lungs, etc. ...	5	1·9	1·5	2·3	1·9
,, ,, Premature birth...	1	0·4	1·14	0·8	1·2
,, ,, Atrophy, etc.	0	0·0	1·5	0·8	0·8
,, ,, Accidents	3	1·1	0·75	1·9	0·4
,, ,, all other causes	4	1·5	3·8	2·7	4·4

The other classes of disease caused the average number of deaths, and call for no further comment. Five of the deaths were those of persons over 70 years old, viz.: 70, 76, 79, 80 and 91 respectively.

ADMINISTRATION.

(1) Refuse Disposal.—Fæcal matters and ashes are mostly deposited in privy middens, to be afterwards used as manure on fields and gardens. Waste water is allowed to run over the surface of neighbouring fields and gardens either directly or through dumb-wells.

If provision be made for keeping the rain-water out of these dumb-wells, and cleaning them periodically, no nuisance need arise.

(2) Water Supply.—The Birmingham water is supplied to 58 houses, 185 houses have well-water from 86 wells, 11 of which are draw-wells. The great majority of the pump-wells were inefficiently protected against surface pollution, and several were in dangerous proximity to offensive privies. By conversion of the draw-wells into pump-wells protected against surface pollution in the manner mentioned in my annual report for 1895, a fairly good water may be obtained, but those who wish for a trustworthy supply must either have the Birmingham water or spend a considerable sum of money on the old wells.

(3) Measures for the Prevention of Infectious Disease.—Under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, which came into operation in February, 1890, there were notified during the year 24 cases, viz.: 17 cases of scarlatina, four cases of diphtheria, one of puerperal fever, and two cases of erysipelas.

Scarlatina.—By an arrangement with the Corporation of West Bromwich, 11 of the cases of scarlatina were treated in their hospital. Five cases were treated at private cost at the Aston Infectious Hospital within the district. One case died before removal to hospital. Of the 17 cases of scarlatina, 14 occurred in the Maryvale Convent School, to which is attached the St. Catherine's Public Elementary School. The history of the outbreak is as follows: One of the inmates was allowed to visit for a week a relative in Birmingham. The date of this visit could not be accurately ascertained. On September 15th, this child, after her return, had vomiting, and on the 16th a red rash and a very slight sore throat. She was so very slightly ill that no notice was taken of her case until an examination of all the children by the Convent's medical officer on October 1st revealed that she was peeling. This girl was a good dresser of dolls, and was accustomed to dress them for the other children whilst actually suffering from scarlatina so mild in character as to be overlooked. In the meantime, a girl, who had been an inmate of the Convent for four years, fell ill on September 26th, had a rash on the 27th, and died early on the 28th of "Scarlatina maligna." The next 11 cases occurred as the direct results of these between October 1st and November 6th, and were isolated at once and removed to hospital, the rooms being fumigated with sulphur and the bedding being disinfected at Aston Disinfecting Station. The first two children to be discharged from West Bromwich Hospital came back on December 10th, and after medical inspection were allowed to go among the other inmates on December 15th. On December 18th, the fourteenth case arose in the Convent and was removed to hospital with the usual precautions.

The School was closed by the managers, at the order of your Council, for a period of 17 days from the 12th October, and for a further period of four weeks, in order to prevent the spread of the disease outside the Convent. No case occurred outside the Convent.

Diphtheria.—The four cases occurred in a house at the extreme north border of the district. Sore throats had been prevalent one month previously in the house, which had the following sanitary defects: Defective lip trap (D-trap) to sink drain, cesspool in garden full of foul sewage, open privy midden, foul and wet, the liquid filth soaking into the closet. Two of the cases were fatal. The first death was the subject of a coroner's inquest, the boy having had no medical attendance.

The other infectious cases call for no comment.

(4) Other Sanitary Work.—During the year 576 inspections were made and 54 nuisances abated after notice by the Inspector of Nuisances, four being after formal notice by your Authority. Nine lots of infected bedding were stoved and 12 houses and two schools were disinfected after infectious disease.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year ending December 31st, 1898, in the Urban Sanitary District of Perry Barr.

		Observations and Inspections made.	Preliminary Notices.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools.	Foul Conditions ...	12	2		1
	Structural Defects ...	1	1		1
	Over-crowding ...				
	Unfit for Habitation ...				
	Lodging-houses ...				
	Dairies and Milkshops ...	5			
	Cowsheds ...	14			
	Bakehouses ...				
	Slaughter-houses ...				
	Canal Boats ...				
	Ashpits and Privies ...	447	32	1	32
	Deposits of Refuse & Manure	2	1		1
	Water Closets ...				
House Drainage.	Defective Traps ...	2	2		2
	No Disconnection ...	1			
	Other Faults ...	63	17	3	17
	Water Supply ...				
	Pigsties ...	29			
	Animals improperly kept ...				
	Offensive Trades ...				
	Smoke Nuisances ...				
	Other Nuisances ...				
	TOTALS ...	576	55	4	54

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year ending December 31st, 1898, in the Urban Sanitary District of Perry Barr (continued).

	NOS.
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	–
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	–
,, ,, Found Adulterated	–
,, of Water taken for Analysis	–
,, ,, Condemned as unfit for use	–

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	9
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	12
Schools ditto ditto	2
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease,	–
Convictions ditto ditto	–
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things ...	–
Convictions ditto ditto ditto ...	–

Dated 11th January, 1899.

(Signed) H. HATCH GAMMELL,

Inspector of Nuisances.

(A)—TABLE OF DEATHS

Registered during the Year 1898 in the Urban District of Perry Barr, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities; shewing also the population and the births therein during the year.

Names of Localities adopted for the purposes of these statistics: public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population: Census, 1891.	Population: Estimated to middle of 1897.	Registered Births: Males.	Registered Births: Females.	Registered Births: Total.	Deaths from all causes at subjoined ages: At all ages: Males.	At all ages: Females.	At all ages: Total.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.
PERRY BARR ..	2310	2650	46	48	94	14	10	24	7	5	3	1	4	4
THE INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL FOR ASTON MANOR.	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	1	..	1	..	..
TOTAL.....	..	..	..	..	..	14	12	26	7	6	3	2	4	4

Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.

		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Fevers: Typhus.	Fevers: Enteric or Typhoid.	Fevers: Continued.	Fevers: Relapsing.	Fevers: Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Causes.	Total.
PERRY BARR	Under 5	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	8	12
	5 upwards	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	3	3	12
THE INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL FOR ASTON MANOR.	Under 5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	5 upwards	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
TOTAL.....	Under 5	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	8	13
	5 upwards	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	3	3	13

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

		Deaths at all ages: Males.	Females.	Total.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Causes.	Total.
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto	Under 5	2	3	5	..	1	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
	5 upwards										..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	4
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto	Under 5	..	3	3	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	5 upwards										..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2

(B). Table of new cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1898, enumerating the number of houses infected, the total number of deaths, also the number of cases treated and the deaths that occurred in Infectious Hospitals.

		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.
Houses infected		..	3	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..
Total cases reported among persons belonging to the district ..	Under 5	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	5 upwards	..	16	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..
Total deaths registered among persons belonging to the district	Under 5	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	5 upwards	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cases among persons belonging to the district, treated in Hospital	Under 5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	5 upwards	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to the district ..	Under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..